

Alaska U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## 2011 Student Employment Program

### *Intern Request Form*

Please Complete all information listed in *BLUE*

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge

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#### FWS Office

101 12<sup>th</sup> Ave; Rm 262

Fairbanks

AK

99701

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**Address**

**City**

**State**

**Zip**

Michael Spindler

(907)-456-0331

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**FWS Project Leader**

**Phone**

**Email**

Tim Craig

Wildlife Biologist

(907)-456-0508

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**Intern Supervisor (if different)**

**Title**

**Phone**

**Email**

16 May – 31 May 2011 (negotiable);

Fairbanks, Alaska

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**Start Date for internship**

**Location of Internship**

## Housing/Travel

No, but it's recommended.

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**Does the internship location require the intern to have his own vehicle to get to work?**

Bus

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**What kind of public transportation is available in the area?**

Yes

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**Will you or another FWS staff be able to pick up the intern at the airport if needed?**

FAI-Fairbanks

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**Nearest airport to the internship location**

Yes

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**Will your office be able to provide housing for your intern?**

#### Housing Description:

Housing will not be provided in Fairbanks. When conducting field work, the intern will sometimes be housed in shared FWS/NPS bunkhouse facilities in Bettles, Alaska (just N of Refuge). Bunkhouse has 2 FWS bedrooms

(sleep 1-4; separate male/female) and single-sex bathrooms, shared living/dining room/ kitchen. Intern will also spend at least 3 weeks camping in primitive, remote settings and will be provided equipment for these events. Each camping event will not exceed 12 days in duration.

## Required Training

*Check all the apply to this position*

★	IT Security Training, QuickTime, General USFWS Overview
X	Bear Safety
X	Firearms
X	Boat Safety and Operation (mostly non-motorized)
X	Aircraft Safety (required for travel in government float planes)
X	CPR and first aid
	ATV Training
X	Site/Job Specific (please describe): Field: Plant identification, natural history observation and note-taking, camp maintenance, various raptor survey techniques. Office: Equipment assembly/shipping, data archiving (Access database)

## Intern Position Description

Biological Science Technician (vegetation)

GS-05, possibly GS-06

**Position Title**

**GS or WG and what level?**

### DUTIES

*Please note the duties the intern will be performing*

As a **Biological Science Technician** you will:

- Help collect basic ecological information (e.g. plant species occurrence, phenology, and canopy coverage, tree ages, and physiographic parameters) at, at least, 2 study sites that are located in separate, remote locations. Research is part of an on ongoing Inventory and Monitoring project, the goal of which is to document the natural diversity of the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.
- Help identify and record mammalian and bird presence/activities of interest, etc.
- Assist in survey of raptors that nest along portions of a remote river using play-back call survey techniques.
- Operate and maintain a variety of scientific field sampling equipment including GPSs, increment cores, clinometers, diameter tapes, digital players and cameras, binoculars, etc.
- Operate motorized and non-motorized (e.g. inflatable kayak) boats in remote settings.
- Work and travel safely and effectively in remote settings under difficult environmental conditions, challenging terrain, and in bear country
- Participate in aerial wildlife surveys.
- Help archive, manage, summarize, and interpret biological data.

### EDUCATION LEVEL, SKILL, INTERESTS

*Please note specific skills, competencies, interests, classes selected, or other qualifications that would be useful for an intern to have in order to make a significant contribution on this project.*

Ideally this intern will have prior **experience working in a remote field setting**. This position requires **greater maturity** and **emotional resources** than positions that are solely office based. Field work is difficult with biting bugs, variable environmental conditions (including hot, dirty, and wet), and **strenuous working conditions** in remote environments with one other person. It is essential that the intern be **enthusiastic** and willing to **learn new skills** both scientific and outdoor oriented. The intern should also have exacting attention to detail for required data collection and management. Prior experience with **plant identification** (e.g., knowledge of native plant family characteristics, etc.) is preferred. Coursework in plant systematics, wildlife management, and Alaskan flora is helpful. Candidate should have a **demonstrated interest in ecology**, with experience in Alaska a bonus. Prior experience with a shotgun is helpful, but training in usage and subsequent certification will be provided.

### **WORK CONDITIONS, CLOTHING GEAR**

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*Describe the work conditions (hours, dress code, environment/setting) and appropriate clothing/gear that the prospective intern should be aware of*

The intern will be expected to work 40 hours a week during Fairbanks-based duties and up to 70 hours per week while in the field. The Fairbanks office attire is casual and there is no uniform requirement.

The intern should bring field clothes that they are willing to get dirty and/or worn. The temperature on Kanuti NWR from May through August ranges from 20 to 80 degrees (F) and weather can change dramatically within a few hours. The ability to add and remove clothes based on weather conditions is important. The intern should bring high-quality rain gear (jacket and pants). Study sites are at or above the Arctic Circle, it is also recommended that the intern bring enough warm clothes to dress in layers if need be. Cotton clothing is not recommended for field work because it can rapidly remove warmth from the body if wet. Fibers that maintain their “warmth”, even when wet, such as polypropylene, capilene, polar fleece, or wool are preferred for field clothing. Natural fiber clothing (e.g. wool, silk, cotton) must be worn in planes and helicopters. Cotton clothing is fine for Fairbanks- or Bettles-based duties. There are places to buy outdoor gear in Fairbanks, but clothing might be less expensive elsewhere.

The intern should bring gloves, a warm hat, a baseball cap or sun hat, sunglasses, hiking boots, several changes/combinations of hiking socks, comfortable loose clothing since the job entails being outside and strenuous hiking. We recommend a calling card or cell phone (while in Fairbanks) but brief weekly check-in calls via satellite phone are available from remote sites. Intern is responsible for all personal toiletries, prescriptions, etc. A small laptop computer, personal digital camera, iPod/MP3 player are recommended. Intern should expect to travel light (no linens necessary, no bulky luggage, few books, etc.) as there will be transportation in small aircraft with little room.

FWS to Provide: Knee-high rubber boots, hip waders, mosquito jackets and headnets, any equipment needed in the field, such as backpacks, tent, sleeping bags/pads, cook stove, binoculars, water bottles, water filtration, camera, GPS, first aid kit, dry bags, firearm/ammo, non-lethal bear deterrents, field food, etc.